

the Citrus County Right to Life, and had recently been elected president of the Florida Right to Life. In addition to participating in these organizations, Mr. Bomby was a devoted family man who enjoyed playing the saxophone.

Mr. Speaker, I know that his family, friends and loved ones miss his presence but are heartened to know that he has passed on to a better place.

RECOGNIZING MR. PATRICK WEST

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Patrick West for his 25 years of service to the people of Paramount, California.

Pat began his career with Paramount in 1980 at a time when the city was being called a "suburban disaster," and was ranked as one of the Nation's worst places to live. Pat was a leading part of a team of local citizens and city employees who made a commitment to turn Paramount around. And turn the city around they did.

For example, to help reduce the high crime and gang problem in Paramount, Pat and other city employees and community leaders developed the GRIP anti-gang youth program. GRIP is now nationally recognized as one of America's longest running and most successful programs at reaching children early in elementary school, steering them away from gang involvement and towards more positive activities.

Pat started work in the city's Recreation Department, where GRIP is located. During 1986–1994 he moved to the Community Development Department where he was responsible for planning, zoning, and housing efforts in the city. Then, in 1994, Pat became City Manager for Paramount. Pat's able hand at community development and city management can be seen today in the thriving business districts of Paramount, and the creative use of suburban revitalization methods, such as pocket parks. Those years in the 1980's and 1990's saw the dramatic transformation of Paramount from suburban disaster status to a model of positive suburban redevelopment, with a city that stands out today for the quality of its city management and the quality of public services that it provides its residents and businesses. Pat West has played a leading role in directing that transformation over two and a half decades.

Pat's roots and life have been spent in our region of Southern California. Born in Inglewood, raised in Huntington Beach, and educated at UC Irvine for a bachelor's degree, and Cal State Los Angeles and Cal State Dominguez Hills for masters' degrees, Pat is truly a local Southern Californian who has done well, and done well for his State and his greater community.

Pat is leaving Paramount after 25 years to take a promotional opportunity working for the larger city of Long Beach where he will head up that city's redevelopment agency and help another city in our region successfully meet the challenges it faces.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Pat West for his

many years of service to the people of Paramount, CA and in wishing him the very best in his work ahead for the people of Long Beach, CA.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA JOEL GRAMLING OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Corporal Joshua Joel Gramling of Zephyrhills, FL, a Marine Corps veteran of the war in Iraq. I am proud to join the entire Zephyrhills community, his friends and family, and his fellow soldiers to welcome Corporal Gramling back safely from Iraq.

Following his enlistment in the Marine Corps in 1998, Corporal Gramling served as a tank gunner for the first four years of his service. Following the completion of his four-year duty, Corporal Gramling decided to re-enlist in the Marine Corps. Activated before the end of the year, Corporal Gramling was deployed to Iraq in March, 2005 where he served in Regimental Combat Team 8.

During his time in the Marine Corps, Corporal Gramling has received two Good Conduct Medals, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal.

Born into the military with both parents serving at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, Corporal Gramling comes from a long line of military veterans. A proud member of three generations of American military men and women, Corporal Gramling continues his family's tradition of service to America's Armed Forces. In fact, twelve members of his family have served in the Gulf War, the Vietnam War and in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, the entire Zephyrhills Community is proud to have a native son and proud soldier return home safely from active duty. True American heroes like Corporal Gramling should be honored for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifice in battle.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC PROGRAM

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps unit of Central High School in Brooksville, FL for being recognized by the Navy as the 2005 Best Unit in the Navy's Area 7 and runner up as the 2005 Best Unit in the Nation. Both of these prestigious awards are sponsored by the Navy League of the United States.

Central High's NJROTC program is focused on the development of their cadets as model citizens as well as fostering the growth of tomorrow's leaders. In addition to their countless time spent drilling and reviewing on the pa-

rade grounds, the unit has amassed over 5,900 community service hours in a wide variety of community oriented activities. The unit has also pushed its cadets to achieve in the classroom, with several cadets participating in national academic contests, three cadets being awarded NROTC scholarships, and one cadet appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy.

In his application to the National NJROTC Awards Nominating Committee, the Area 7 manager stated that he had never seen a more inspiring event than the Evening Parade conducted by Central High's NJROTC Unit. Working as a team, the unit performed with a flawless precision that was of the same caliber as some of the finest honor guards in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Central High's Area 7 Best Unit award and their number two ranking in the nation, I would like to congratulate all the cadets participating in Central High's NJROTC program and their instructors for their dedication to the cadet program, for their service to the Brooksville community, and for their love of the United States of America. This unit will serve as an inspiration and an example for other NJROTC programs throughout Florida and throughout the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTH HIGH SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, in North St. Paul, MN, this year marks 100 years of North High School, a pillar of the community since 1905. North High is one of three high schools serving the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, a district which educates nearly 12,000 students each year.

As illustrated by the school's vision statement and exemplified in the work of its faculty and staff, learning and citizenship come first at North High. Generations of students and their families have acquired knowledge, attained skills, and developed values that prepare them for lifelong learning and civic participation in our democratic society.

Learning and growth happen outside of the classroom at North High as well. Students are provided with many leadership opportunities, including participation in more than 25 clubs and organizations, such as National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and Teens Advocating Peace. In addition, North High offers more than 26 athletic team opportunities for both boys and girls to learn the values associated with teamwork and physical fitness.

Many families in Minnesota and in North St. Paul have shared memories and developed lifelong friends because of their North High experiences. My own family has strong connections to North High—both of my children are alumni of North High and I was a student teacher at North High while finishing my bachelor's degree at the College of St. Catherine.

We count on our Nation's schools to help create and support our communities, strengthen our neighborhoods, and educate and prepare our children and youth. North High is a